

## Technology Saving Lives on the Streets of Baghdad

By Sgt. Christina Rockhill  
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division are using technology to their advantage. They have been using robots, from the Rapid Equipping Force, to help them on their patrols.

Soldiers of Company A, 91st Engineer Battalion have been using the multi-functional advanced remote control or MARC Bot on their daily patrols to sweep the streets of Baghdad for improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

The MARC Bot, which resembles a large remote controlled car, has all-terrain wheels and a retractable arm with a wireless camera attached to it. The operator of the robot uses the remote control to navigate the MARC Bot closer to a possible IED. Then by watching a monitor on the controller he can determine whether or not it is an IED.

Sgt. 1st Class Chad Carpenter, of Rapid Equipping Force, said the increased distance between



Photos by Sgt. Christina Rockhill, 1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

**BIGGER THAN A HUMMER?** The Multi-functional Advance Remote Control, or MARC Bot is used by Soldiers of Company A, 91st Engineer Battalion as they patrol the streets of Baghdad for IEDs. Each robot costs \$3,000.

and continue the mission."

It allows stand-off from IEDs, for Soldiers to go ahead and detect them, which does two things," he said. "Number one it helps save their lives in case the thing goes off, and number two, if it's not an IED it will allow them to go ahead, get it off the road

Spc. Randall Archie is the MARC Bot operator for Company A, 91 ENG, and said that the MARC Bot not only saves lives, it also saves time and embarrassment.

"It's kind of embarrassing whenever you call EOD and sit around blocking off a main road for an hour or two hours waiting for them to get out there, and then they show up and it's just a bag of trash," he said.

Archie said even though his crew hasn't found any IEDs with the robot, he said it's more effective than the usual tools they use.

"It allows us to get eyes on," he said. "You can see a lot with [binoculars] and everything else, but with this you're right on

it." Sweeping the streets for explosives with a robot can be a daunting task.

"It's kind of weird at first but once they get used to it they love it," Carpenter said.

Maj. Carlos Munson, the 1st Cav. Div. Rapid Equipping Force Liason, said the \$3,000 MARC Bot is operator friendly and easy to use.

Munson said they have only lost a couple of robots from explosions, but said it's better than losing a couple of Soldiers.

"In the past, a lot of Soldiers have gotten injured by walking up on suspect IEDs to check them out," he said. "This way if the IED blows up the only thing that's hurt is the robot and we can easily replace a robot."



**NOPE.** Spc. Randall Archie navigates the MARC Bot along a Baghdad road like a remote-controlled car. A monitor allows Archie to see what the robot sees.

## 2-5 Cavalry Breaks Bread with Kurds

CAMP WAR EAGLE, BAGHDAD, Iraq - It is not every day when Soldiers from can sit down to a home-cooked meal in Iraq, while at the same time forging stronger ties with Kurdish allies in Sadr City over some Kurdish cuisine.

The Liberal Faylee Kurds Organization organized a feast and invited Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, for food and fellowship. The event was coordinated through 345th Psychological Operations (PSYOP), which is attached to 2-5 Cav. 345th PSYOP regularly conducts campaigns in the area promoting Multi-National Forces civil works projects.

"We have been coming to the Liberal Faylee Kurds Organization for the past three months working as a conduit between us and the Kurdish community in Sadr

City," Sgt. Steven Nabors, 345th PSYOP said. "They want to have lunches like this one as a thank you for our assistance and a way for their leadership and Task Force 2-5 Cav. leadership to come together and discuss issues."

The lunch included a huge display of food across a table with a large assortment of Kurdish dishes from which to choose. Dishes like Kuba, a deep fried wheat pocket packed with lamb, raisins, almonds and seasonings, were served.

"The lunch like this brings our two cultures together," Staff Sgt. Dave Gurba, scout platoon, 2-5 Cav. said. "It seemed like everybody was happy. We didn't have to worry about the fighting at that moment and it almost seems like you are eating with your friends back home."

Lt. Col. Gary Volesky 2-5 Cav. commander lis-



Photos by Capt. Michael Martinez, 2-5 Cavalry Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Dave Gurba helps himself to a few dishes prepared by the Liberal Faylee Kurds Organization. Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment attended a dinner prepared by the group.

tened and discussed issues pertaining to the Kurdish organization, while enjoying the Kurdish hospitality.

"They conveyed to me their history under Saddam Hussein and how they could go about making claims of repatriation for loss property under Saddam's regime," Volesky

said. "I told them that I encourage them to go through their government and present the Kurdish issues and that I would use the Multi-National Forces channel to assist them."

The Kurdish staff created an atmosphere that made the Soldiers feel right at home.



Lt. Col. Gary Volesky, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, speaks with members of the Liberal Faylee Kurds Organization at a dinner prepared by the group. The luncheon offered a chance to bring two cultures together, as well as discuss concerns of the Iraqi group.

### Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

Do you speak English?

hal tetaKALum enGLIzi

**Tuesday**

High: 110  
Low: 82



**Wednesday**

High: 110  
Low: 82



**Thursday**

High: 108  
Low: 82



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## News Notes

### 'Bonnie' Headed To Gulf Coast

*USA Today* reports that Tropical Storm Bonnie formed Monday afternoon over the Gulf of Mexico and is forecast to head north toward the U.S. Gulf Coast. The storm is expected to threaten the Gulf Coast near the mouth of the Mississippi River or the Florida Panhandle later this week as a tropical storm with winds less than 74 miles per hour, according to Steve Lyons, *The Weather Channel's* hurricane expert.

### OK City Bomber, Nichols Gets Life

McALESTER, Okla. (AP) -- Oklahoma City bombing conspirator Terry Nichols addressed a court for the first time Monday, asking for forgiveness and offering to help victims' families with the healing process as he was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole on 161 state charges. "Words cannot adequately express the sorrow I have felt over the years for the grief they have all suffered," Nichols said of the victims' families.

### Time Magazine Reporter Held

WASHINGTON (AP) -- A federal judge held *Time* magazine reporter Matthew Cooper in contempt of court Monday for refusing to testify before a grand jury investigating the leak of the identity of a covert CIA officer's identity. The magazine has appealed the decision.

## Needy School Children Get Help in Temple



Temple Daily Telegram

**Stuff the Bus** - Triston Augeri, 7, puts his sticker on the school bus after he and Darby Block, 6 in a few days, made their donations to the "Stuff the Bus" program Saturday at Colonial Mall-Temple. The campaign raised

\$610 on its first day at the mall and the bus will be in the mall again today for further donations. "Stuff the Bus" proceeds will go to Communities in Schools, which purchases school supplies for children who don't have them.



Seattle Times

Wisps of smoke are all that remain of a failed rocket launch by the Space Transport Corp., who hopes to win the \$10 million X Prize, offered to any group who can make two successful manned launches in to outer space within two weeks. This flight was manned with a mannequin.

## Washington Rocketeers' 1st Launch Goes BOOM! in Seconds

From the *Seattle Times*  
QUEETS, Wash. — In a giant leap backward for the underdog, two young rocketeers watched the unmanned spacecraft they've labored on for a year explode seconds into its maiden flight yesterday.

The spectacular mishap rained debris on the beach and into the Pacific Ocean, and probably ended the duo's long-shot attempt to win a \$10 million space race.

But Phillip Storm, president of the two-man company called Space Transport Corp., said they will continue trying to build rockets that can ferry tourists and payloads into space cheaply.

"We're disappointed, but not extremely disappointed because this was the first test flight," Storm

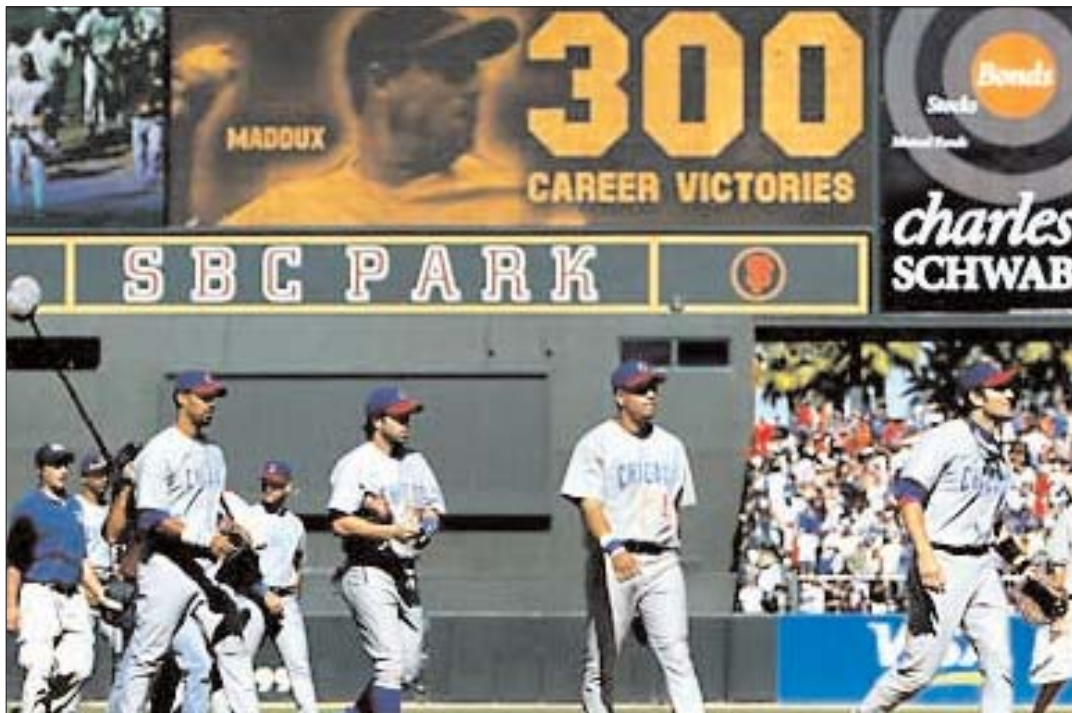
said, standing by the remnants of one of the rocket's engines. "NASA lost several rockets before they got something good."

Then he sighed deeply and rubbed his smudged hands through his hair. "It's just too bad."

Forks High School teacher Martin Dillon, who had spent days helping assemble the 23-foot-long rocket, trudged up with the plastic head from a dummy that was the vessel's sole passenger.

"The occupant was decapitated," he deadpanned.

Storm and his partner, Eric Meier, both 26, had hoped a successful flight by the Rubicon rocket would attract investors to their cash-strapped project.



Getty Images

Members of the Chicago Cubs leave the field as the scoreboard in San Francisco announces pitcher Greg

Maddux's landmark achievement. Maddux won his 300th game Saturday, 8-4 over the Giants.

## ***This Week in Baseball: Maddux Makes History, Martinez Will Be History in Seattle***

SEATTLE -- The Sporting News' Ken Rosenthal reports that Edgar Martinez has called a news conference at Safeco Field in Seattle, where he will announce his retire-

ment from the game.

Sources in Seattle are saying that Martinez will retire at the end of the year, but the possibility remains that the 41-year-old designated hitter could make an

immediate exit.

Martinez is hitting .258 and has seen his playing tie reduced with the arrival of Bucky Jacobsen from the Mariners' Triple A affiliate in Tacoma.

### **Maddux Magical**

Greg Maddux added another milestone to a hall of fame career Saturday, beating the San Francisco Giants 8-4 on the road for his 300th career victory.

### **Phils' Burrell Out**

Phillies slugger Pat Burrell will have season-ending wrist surgery Friday, another blow to Philadelphia's playoff hopes.

The Associated Press reports that Burrell, who injured his left wrist in batting practice last Tuesday, was hitting .263 with 18 homers and 68 RBIs.



AP photo

Seattle Mariner designated hitter Edgar Martinez called a press conference Monday to announce his retirement from baseball. Martinez, a perennial .300 hitter, is batting just .258 this season.

## **Sports Shorts**

### **U.S. Women Thump France**

SALAMANCA, Spain (AP) -- Lisa Leslie

Scored 12 points and Sue Bird added 11, leading the U.S.

women's Olympic basketball team to a 68-38 victory over France Sunday at the Spanish International Tournament. The Americans, winners of the past two Olympic gold medals, rallied from an early 10-5 deficit and tied the game on a pair of free throws by Tina Thompson with 3:29 left in the first quarter. Leslie hit a layup a minute later to give the Americans the lead for good.

### **Dolphins Owner Wants \$\$\$ Back**

MIAMI --Miami

Dolphins owner Wayne Huizenga is angry and he wants retired running back Ricky Williams to repay more than \$5 million in incentives the team paid him over the past two seasons, according to a report in the *Miami Herald* newspaper. The newspaper, citing an unnamed source, said Huizenga is "incredibly (angry) about what Ricky did. He has his lawyers together and he is going to go after the money the team paid Ricky. He wants to make sure this never happens again." Huizenga could not be reached for comment. According to the *Herald*, under the terms of a revised contract Williams signed before the 2002 season, the team can recoup incentives due to retirement.